



Winchester Public Schools Department of Music

NOW ENROLLING!

2011-2012 Musical Instrument Lessons for students in grades 3, 4, and 5

New this year! Online registration at <https://unipaygold.unibank.com/TransactionInfo.aspx?transid=6198>

It is time to sign up for musical instrument lessons! Winchester Public Schools offers an extensive program of instrument lessons and ensembles for students in grades 3 – 12. Our hope is that lessons begun in elementary school lead to an enriching life-long activity. Every year, our WHS seniors let us know how important band and orchestra have been to them as they progress through school.

We offer group lessons on traditional band and orchestra instruments. If your child is interested in learning to play a:

- **Stringed instrument** (violin, viola, cello, or bass), lessons start in 3rd grade
- **Woodwind** (flute, oboe, clarinet, alto saxophone) or **Brass** (trumpet, horn, baritone or trombone), lessons start in 4th grade
- **Percussion** (snare drum and bells), lessons start in 5th grade

Lessons are organized by instrument family and level, with beginner, 2nd and 3rd year groups. Students are encouraged to begin an instrument the first year it is offered, although “late beginners” are welcome in the 1st year group if it meets before school. Teachers will support these students in their efforts to catch up and they may be moved into the class with their classmates as their progress allows. Students who start a year later than their classmates are encouraged to seek lessons over the summer in order to join their classmates in the fall. Please contact the music teachers for help finding summer lessons.

Students are encouraged but not required to participate in our weekly ensembles that complement the lessons. String players attend 3rd grade or 4th and 5th grade orchestras Wednesday afternoons at McCall. For other students, there is a band at each elementary school that meets once a week before or after school. Students are invited by Ms. Miller or Ms. Snodgrass to join when they can play independently in the ensemble, usually about the middle of their first year of lessons. The bands start in September for returning 5th graders. For students enrolled in school lessons there is no additional cost for the ensembles; students who take private lessons are welcome to join the groups for a fee.

OUR TEACHERS

Woodwinds and Percussion are taught by Ms. Priscilla Miller (pmiller@winchester.k12.ma.us), who also teaches Jazz Band at McCall and Concert/Marching Band and Jazz Band at WHS. Brass students are taught by Ms. Jeanne Snodgrass (jsnodgrass@winchester.k12.ma.us), who also teaches brass and percussion at McCall, and Strings are taught by Mrs. Adrienne Caselle (acaselle@winchester.k12.ma.us), who also teaches 6th and 7th Grade orchestras at McCall.

Deadline to Enroll: October 14, 2011

INSTRUMENT INFORMATION:

You will need to make arrangements for an instrument. You may purchase or rent an instrument, but please be aware that many of the inexpensive instruments available at online auction sites and with online or big box retailers can prove unusable. Also, with strings, having the instrument fit the student is critical (strings instruments come in different sizes). Used instruments can be fine, but again, exercise caution if you're not purchasing from a local music store that you trust. The teachers above will be happy to try out a new or used instrument you are considering in an effort to save everyone some frustration!

If you decide to rent an instrument call these companies ahead of time to make arrangements and they will deliver to Winchester in early September. **Johnson Strings**, 617-964-0954, **K&C Music Company**, 781-769-6520, **Leonards Music** in Bedford, 781 271 1189, **National Music** in Woburn, 781-933-6300, and **Spencer Brook Strings** in Maynard, 978 897 6382. For percussion, please rent a kit that includes a drum pad as well as a set of orchestra bells.

We have a limited supply of school-owned instruments for students whose financial need might limit their ability to take lessons. If you would like a school instrument please register online before August 1 and contact the music teacher for that instrument. Requests will be processed during the first week of school in the fall. If any instruments are available beyond this we are happy to loan them on a first come first served basis. In this case there is a maintenance fee of \$35 for cleaning and maintenance. Families are responsible for repairs and replacement in case of accidental damage.

FOR A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Melodie Wing, Ann Muir, and Wendy Jo New are members of the Friends of Music and parents of children who have participated in all levels of instrumental music. They are happy to share their experiences and can be reached at szabo-wing@comcast.net, themuirs@verizon.net, or wendy@imanew.com.

VIDEOS

WinCAM has several WHS concerts available on demand on their website: www.wincam.org. At the main menu, click on WinCAM Video On Demand (Watch our shows here), then click on Winchester High School Arts.

LESSON SCHEDULE

Lessons begin at each of the elementary schools starting the week of September 19th. Lessons occur between 7:45 AM and about 10:00 AM; students receive one 45-minute lesson per week on the same day each week. Lessons are cancelled as necessary for MCAS testing, if there is a delayed opening, or if a teacher is out and we are unable to schedule a substitute, in which case we'll alert families with an email. Barring too many ill-timed snow days a minimum of 28 lessons will be taught during the course of a year, usually several more than this. Please help your child remember his/her instrument and book on lesson day. They don't need to bring a music stand. A schedule of days and times will be distributed in the fall. Elementary orchestras meet after school on Wednesdays at McCall; parents transport their children to the rehearsals. Elementary bands meet at their school once a week directly before or after the school day.

COST & APPLICATION DEADLINES

The cost of group lessons is \$350.00 for the full year for registrations completed by July 31. From August 1 through mid-October the cost is \$400.00. Early enrollment helps us dedicate adequate staffing to the

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various sections. Classes for instruments and/or levels with low enrollment as of the start of school may be eliminated. Students new to the district will be admitted for a prorated fee anytime during the year. Students who start lessons in September but drop out before October 31 will receive a full refund of fees paid. After 10/31 there is no refund. Students who take private lessons participate in school ensembles for a fee of \$100 for a full year or \$50 for a half year. There is no additional fee for the ensembles for students enrolled in school lessons. For participation in ensembles please contact one of the music teachers or the Director of Music.

INTALLMENTS

Families may pay for lessons in three installments. Please indicate your preference when you register online.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

We welcome donations to provide financial assistance to students who might otherwise be unable to study an instrument. If you wish to help please send your donation to John Danizio, Director of Finance, Winchester Public Schools, 154 Horn Pond Brook Rd., Winchester, MA 01890.

TO SIGN UP FOR ELEMENTARY INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Log on to our Unipay lesson registration site at

<https://unipaygold.unibank.com/TransactionInfo.aspx?transid=6198>

Please contact the Director of Music or one of the music teachers listed above with questions.

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